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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. On 15 June 1953, the former State Secretariat for Food, Tobacco and Liquor was reorganized into the Ministry of Food Industry with its headquarters remaining on Ehrenbergstrasse, Berlin O.17. The structure of the Ministry, which is headed by Kurt Westphal, remained unchanged, except that Sachgebiete became Hauptsachgebiete, Referate became Hauptreferate, and Hauptreferate became Abteilungen (departments). Hauptreferat Materialversorgung und Planung (Material Procurement and Planning), which formerly belonged to the Main Administration No. IV, became a department on 10 July.
2. In late June, the material supplies for heavy industry were scheduled to be cut in favor of the food industry. The Material Procurement and Supply Department of the Food Ministry was notified, that beginning 20 July 1953, full delivery of materials, especially coal, could be expected. Source believed that the rebuilding of the East German economy, with emphasis on the consumer goods industry, could be achieved only gradually, since it involved the changing of plans and the redistribution of labor.
3. Source stated that an especially critical situation existed at DHZ Lebensmittel, which was on the verge of strike on 17 June. Most of the workers at the breweries and at the tobacco factories struck on 17 June. In early July, the brewery workers threatened to strike again. Their demands for increased wages were met.

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